

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 SCCT-02 SY-04 USSS-00

FBIE-00 CCO-00 AID-20 A-01 OPR-02 DRC-01 /111 W

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O 301040Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1605

UNCLAS SANTO DOMINGO 4013

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: HUTCHINSON KIDNAP - LOCAL RADIO COVERAGE

FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF LOCAL RADIO COVERAGE OF KIDNAPPING
SITUATION FROM 6:30 A.HLM TO 1:00 P.M., MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30.

1. RADIO CLARIN COMMENTARY STATED THAT DOMINICAN PEOPLE SHARE
THE HARDSHIP BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE KIDNAPPING. SAID THEY LAMENT
WHAT HAS HAPPENED AND THAT THE TWO LATIN COUNTRIES, VENEZUELA AND
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND THEIR PEOPLE SHOULD CONTINUE TO WORK TO-
GETHER BECAUSE OF THEIR COMMON LANGUAGE, CULTURAL, AND CHRISTIAN
TRADITIONS.

2. RADIO CLARIN, CONTINUING ITS "PANORAMA INFORMATIVO" REPORTED
AT A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MPD HAD ISSUED A STATEMENT TO THE PRESS
IN WHICH MPD DENIED ANY INVOLVEMENT IN THE KIDNAPPING. THE
STATEMENT ADDED HOWEVER, THAT THE MPD, IN SPITE OF PRESENT EVENTS,
WOULD CONTINUE TO FIGHT FOR THE RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS
AND THE RETURN OF POLITICAL EXILES.

3. RADIO CLARIN REPORTED THAT DR. ROGELIO DELGADO BOGAERT,
PRESIDENT OF THE PARTIDO REVOLUCIONARIO SOCIAL CRISTIANO, SAID
IN AN INTERVIEW ON THE TELEVISION PROGRAM "SEA USTED EL JURADO",
THAT NEITHER THE KIDNAPPERS NOR THE DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT HAD
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THE RIGHT TO PLAY WITH THE LIVES OF THE INNOCENT HOSTAGES.

4. RADIO CLARIN REPORTED THAT THE PANAMANIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC SAID THE TWO LEFTIST STUDENT LEADERS WHO HAD REQUESTED POLITICAL ASYLUM SATURDAY AFTERNOON WERE BEING TREATED AS GUESTS OF THE PANAMANIAN EMBASSY. THE PANAMANIAN AMBASSADOR WAS REPORTED TO HAVE ADDED THAT ALTHOUGH THE STUDENT LEADERS HAD SAID THAT THEY WERE VICTIMS OF POLICE AGGRESSION, THERE HAD BEEN NO MENTION OF THIS MADE AT ANY OFFICIAL LEVEL.

5. RADIO CLARIN REPORTED THAT MEXICAN AMBASSADOR TO DOMINICAN REPUBLIC DENIED ANY INVOLVEMENT WITH NEGOTIATIONS SURROUNDING KIDNAPPING. MEXICAN AMBASSADOR WAS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID HE HAD RECEIVED NO WORD FROM EITHER HIS GOVERNMENT OR DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT TO USE HIS GOOD OFFICES TO SEEK SOLUTION. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO REPORT, DR. PITTALUGA TOLD REPORTERS THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN APPROACHED. IN RESPONSE TO THAT STATEMENT, MEXICAN AMBASSADOR WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THE ASSERTION THAT THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN APPROACHED WAS STRICTLY A DIVERSIONARY TACTIC.

6. RADIO CLARIN GAVE AN "ON THE SPOT" SITUATION REPORT AROUND 7:00 A.M. THEY REPORTED THE POLICE AND ARMED FORCES AROUND CONSULATE WERE BEING RELIEVED. ADDED THAT MENDEZ VARGAS SAID ONE OF HIS MEN IS INJURED AND NEEDS MEDICAL ATTENTION. ALSO REPORTED THAT MENDEZ VARGAS HAS GIVEN DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT NEW DEADLINE. NEW DEADLINE IS 6:00 A.M. TOMORROW MORNING. AFTER THAT, ACCORDING TO REPORT, MENDEZ VARGAS SAID HE WILL NO LONGER BE RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT OCCURS...

7. CONTINUING THEIR REPORT, RADIO CLARIN SAID THE SITUATION GREW TENSE THIS MORNING WHEN MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES BEGAN TO SURROUND CONSULATE. REPORTED THAT AMBASSADOR HURWITCH CAME TO AREA TWICE AND THE SECOND TIME HE WAS THERE HE ASKED POLICE OFFICIALS NOT TO BRING MORE TROOPS INTO AREA BECAUSE THIS WOULD MAKE THE SITUATION MORE DANGEROUS. IT WAS THEN REPORTED THAT POLICE OFFICIALS ASSURED THE AMBASSADOR THEY WERE NOT GOING TO BRING MORE TROOPS INTO AREA.

8. WHILE MILITARY ACTIVITY WAS GOING ON, MENDEZ VARGAS CALLED UNCLASSIFIED

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OUT TO THE PEOPLE. HE WAS REPORTED AS SAYING HE AND HIS GROUP HAD CONDUCTED THEMSELVES HONORABLE IN RESPECT TO HOSTAGES AND DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT. HE SAID THE GROUP HAD BEEN VERY TOLERANT TOWARD THE GOVERNMENT AND HOSTAGES WERE WELL-TREATED. BUT THAT THEY WERE GOING TO GIVE THE GOVERNMENT A DEADLINE OF TWO TO THREE HOURS TO RESOLVE PROBLEM. AS OF THAT TIME, THERE HAD BEEN ON RESPONSE.

9. RADIO CLARIN BROADCAST CONDEMNATORY EDITORIAL CONCERNING ACTIVITIES OF MONSIGNOR POLANCO BRITO. THE EDITORIAL CALLED HIM A PERSON "ESTEEMED BY THE RADICAL LEFTISTS." IT SUGGESTED THAT MONSIGNOR CONDUCT BUSINESS SOLELY FROM THE PULPIT AND NOT TRY TO DISGUISE HIS AID TO HOSTAGES AND KIDNAPPERS AS AN ACT OF CHRISTIAN CHARITY.

10. RADIO CLARIN CARRIED INTERVIEW WITH AMBASSADOR HURWITCH. AMBASSADOR TOLD PRESS HE UNDERSTOOD THEIR SITUATION, BUT SINCE MANY OF THEM WERE BARBARA'S FRIENDS, HE WAS SURE THEY COULD UNDERSTAND HIS PRIMARY CONCERN IS THE WELFARE OF BARBARA AND THAT HE COULDN'T TELL THEM ANYTHING SUBSTANTIVE THAT MIGHT ENDANGER THE SITUATION. HE SAID HE HAD COME TO CONSULATE TO CHECK OUT WELFARE OF HOSTAGES.

11. RADIO CRISTAL REPORTED THAT SPOKESMEN FOR POLICE SAID

THEY COULDN'T PROVIDE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO INJURED PERSON INSIDE CONSULATE UNTIL THEY KNEW NATURE AND EXTENT OF INJURY.

12. ABOUT 10:00 A.M. RADIO CLARIN REPORTED ARRIVAL OF TRUCK CONTAINING SIX MATTRESSES TO BE TAKEN INTO CONSULATE FOR HOSTAGES. MATTRESSES WERE NOT TAKEN IN BECAUSE ONLY PERSON ALLOWED TO ENTER AREA IS MONSIGNOR POLANCO BRITO AND HE HAD NOT ARRIVED AS YET.

13. RADIO CRISTAL REPORTED A COMMUNIQUE FROM OTHER MEMBERS OF 12TH OF JANUARY MOVEMENT HAD BEEN RECEIVED. THE COMMUNIQUE SAID IF DEMANDS OF KIDNAPPERS WERE NOT MET, OTHER MEMBERS OF MOVEMENT WOULD COMMIT ACTS OF TERRORISM AND SABOTAGE AGAINST NORTH AMERICAN BUSINESSES, OFFICIALS, AND DIPLOMATS IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

CONTENTS OF COMMUNIQUE WERE CONFIRMED BY TELEPHONE CALL
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RECEIVED BY RADIO CRISTAL.

14. RADIO CLARIN CARRIED INTERVIEW WITH MONSIGNOR POLANCO BRITO AFTER SANDWICHES AND SOFT DRINKS HAD BEEN TAKEN TO CONSULATE. FOOD AND SOFT DRINKS WERE TAKEN, BUT GUERRILLAS WOULD NOT ACCEPT MATTRESSES. MONSIGNOR POLANCO SAID HE HAD TALKED TO MENDEZ VARGAS AND THAT TWO MESSAGES WERE GIVEN HIM BY MENDEZ VARGAS. ONE WAS FROM BARBARA HUTCHINSON TO AMBASSADOR HURWITCH AND OTHER FROM MENDEZ VARGAS TO POLICE. MONSIGNOR POLANCO BRITO WAS TOLD ONE OF THE GUERRILLAS WAS INJURED AND NEEDED MEDICAL ATTENTION, BUT NATURE OF INJURY WAS STILL UNKNOWN. HE THEN SAID HE HAD TALKED TO BARBARA AND SHE SAID SHE WAS ALL RIGHT. WHEN ASKED IF ANYTHING WAS BEING DONE BY MEDIATION GROUP, HE AGAIN SAID THERE IS NO MEDIATION GROUP.

15. RADIO CLARIN REPORTED A POLICE SPOKESMAN SAID POLICE DO NOT HAVE ANY SOLUTION TO PROBLEM.

16. AT 11:10 A.M. RADIO CRISTAL REPORTED AMBASSADOR HURWITCH, VENEZUELAN CHARGE AND SPANISH AMBASSADOR WERE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BALAGUER.

17. RADIO CLARIN REPORTED AT NOON THAT THREE DIPLOMATS HAD BEEN WITH PRESIDENT BALAGUER AND THAT NEWSMEN WERE EXPECTING SOME SORT OF STATEMENT WITHIN MINUTES.

18. RADIO CLARIN REPORTED THAT MENDEZ VARGAS SAID INJURED GUERRILLA IS NOW SUFFERING FROM FEVER. INJURY, ACCORDING TO REPORT, RESULTED FROM GUERRILLA ACCIDENTLY SHOOTING HIMSELF IN THE HAND.

19. RADIO CLARIN REPORTED THAT AFTER MEETING WITH PRESIDENT THERE WAS NO STATEMENT FROM ANYONE. SAID THAT PRESIDENT'S PRESS SECRETARY DECLINED TO COMMENT AND THREE DIPLOMATS WHO WERE AT THE MEETING HAD NO COMMENT EITHER. RADIO CLARIN ADDED THEY WERE EXPECTING A REPORT WITHIN THE HOUR THAT WOULD SHED LIGHT ON SITUATION.

20. IN TELEPHONE INTERVIEW BROADCAST BY RADIO CRISTAL, VICE-PRESIDENT OF DOMINICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION SAID THE ASSOCIATION UNCLASSIFIED

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WOULD PROVIDE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO ANYONE NEEDING IT INSIDE CONSULATE, BUT FOR THE TIME BEING THEY HAD NOT RECEIVED APPROVAL FROM POLICE. HE ADDED THAT THE ASSOCIATION WOULD CONTINUE TO TRY TO OFFER ITS SERVICES.

21. RADIO CRISTAL REPORTED MEMBERS OF PRESS CORPS ASSIGNED TO PRESIDENT'S OFFICE ARE SAYING PRESIDENT REMAINS INFLEXIBLE IN HIS REFUSAL TO DISCUSS DEMANDS OF KIDNAPPERS. THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL WORD FROM ANY SOURCE, BUT ARE EXPECTING SOME TYPE OF STATEMENT AT ANY MOMENT.
HURWITCH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SANTO04013
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740278-0109
From: SANTO DOMINGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974092/aaaaabmj.tel
Line Count: 212
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 JUL 2002 by maustmc>; APPROVED <10 FEB 2003 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HUTCHINSON KIDNAP - LOCAL RADIO COVERAGE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF LOCAL RADIO COVERAGE OF KIDNAPPING
TAGS: ASEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005